



## **Shelby County Youth Assessment and Resource Center (YARC) Concept Overview**

### **Purpose**

The Shelby County Youth Assessment and Resource Center (YARC) will provide a coordinated, multi-agency, single point of entry for justice involved youth and youth in crisis which contributes to the safety of youth, families, and the community through early intervention, comprehensive assessment and improved access to appropriate programs and services.

### **Why is the YARC Important?**

- o 4,826 juvenile summons issued in 2015
- o 968 youth detained in 2016
- o # of youth suspended, expelled, truant
- o # of youth diverted from detention based on their DAT score
- o # status offenses
- o 658 youth charged with domestic violence offenses
- o Cost of detention of youth
- o Cost to law enforcement

### **Goals of the Shelby County Youth Assessment and Resource Center**

1. To provide a single point of entry for justice involved youth, allowing law enforcement to return to their other duties in a timely manner while ensuring appropriate follow up for youth.
2. To enhance public safety through early intervention, comprehensive assessment, and referral to supportive services and positive strategies tailored to address each youth and family's individual needs.
3. To divert as many youth as possible, consistent with public safety, from entering and/ or going deeper into the juvenile justice system
4. To increase effectiveness in the use of limited community resources through the elimination of duplication of effort and enhanced accountability.
5. To serve as a resource and facilitate better relationships between law enforcement, agencies serving youth, families and the community.

### **Target Population**

Any young person living in Shelby County, Tennessee, age 10-17, can be referred to Shelby County YARC in the following ways:

- Law enforcement officers within Shelby County may bring a youth they have come into contact with because they have committed a low level to moderate offense, in crisis, run away from home, or are beyond the control of their parents (with or without an arrest/juvenile summons);
- Schools may refer students who have been suspended, expelled or for truant behavior (and committed an arrestable offense) or are in crisis
- Parents and families may use the services to help them with a child in conflict instead of contacting law enforcement.

## Key Features of the Youth Assessment and Resource Center

- o Individualized Assessment of Needs (including drug and alcohol use, mental health issues, educational needs, family history, school functioning, law enforcement contact, and peer relationships)
- o Individualized Intervention Plan for youth and their families
- o Co-Located Community Services Onsite
- o Referrals to programs and services for appropriate care based unique age, cultural, linguistic and gender needs
- o Assistance for families to connection with basic needs/services (including long term shelter, utilities, food, medical care or transportation)
- o *Post "Arrest" Diversion*- an alternative arrest processing program that will allows the YARC to keep first time arrested juveniles charged with minor offenses from entering the juvenile justice system.

The goals of this service are to:

- Prevent this group of offenders from further involvement in the juvenile justice system;
- Reduce the load on the justice and judicial systems;
- Identify early indicators that increase the risk of children developing into serious habitual offenders;
- Document quantifiable service needs to assist decision makers in providing funding for appropriate treatment programs and the expansion of necessary services; and
- Facilitate the elimination of an arrest record upon successful completion of the diversion program.

- o Specialized Re-Entry Services for youth transitioning from detention and/or residential placement programs



## Funding

- Shelby County Government ( including Mayor's Administration and Juvenile Court)
- Shelby County Schools and Municipal Schools
- Cities of Memphis, Millington, Germantown, Arlington, Collierville
- Local Business Special Endowment/Trust

- Tax Increase (Property, Special Taxes)

- Federal and State Grants
- Grants from Private Foundations
- Private Donations

### **Anticipated Outcomes for Participants and Community**

1. Reduction in the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system
2. Reduction in number of Juvenile Court referrals
3. Reduction in number of juveniles who repeat delinquency, status offenses, or criminal acts
4. Reduction in the rate of juvenile disproportionate minority contact
5. Increase in number of juveniles/families connected to community-based services
6. Decrease in the time and cost spent by law enforcement related to juvenile delinquency or status offenses
7. Time savings for law enforcement in processing youth committing delinquent acts.